

TOWN/UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, December 8, 2015
Council Chambers, Beck Municipal Building

Minutes

Present: P. Aho, J. Armstrong, J. Coite, M. Gilbert, M. Hart, M. Kirk, A. Kuegler, E. Paterson, M. Sargent, J. Sgobbo, N. Silander, B. Wood

Staff: M. Capriola, L. Painter, J. Mullen (*Town*); C. van Zelm (*MDP*)

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

1. Meeting Minutes

Paterson made the motion, seconded by Armstrong to approve the minutes of 9/8/15 and 11/10/15 as presented. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Committee

Rebecca Shaffer, Mansfield. Ms. Shaffer spoke about the Mansfield Preservation Group and their goal to reduce the number of student rentals in neighborhoods.

David Freudmann, Mansfield. Mr. Freudmann spoke to the issue of student rentals and market demands for housing. He also expressed his opinion that increases in enrollment at the University have not kept pace with increases in on-campus student housing.

Cindy Jones, Mansfield. Ms. Jones spoke to the issue of conversion of single family homes into student rentals and the impact of those conversions on neighborhoods. She also spoke of the work of the Mansfield Preservation Group. She distributed statistics and maps of conversions in 8 Mansfield neighborhoods to the Committee.

2. Updates:

a. *Mansfield Tomorrow*. Painter provided an update. The Plan of Conservation and Development was approved October 8, 2015. The Planning and Zoning Commission is now in the process of updating their planning, zoning, and subdivision regulations. Painter introduced the new Assistant Planner/Zoning Enforcement Officer, Janell Mullen.

b. *Mansfield Downtown Partnership*. Van Zelm provided an update on commercial tenancies and the progress of the owner occupied homes. The Winter Welcome was held December 5th from 1-5pm.

c. *USG*. Kuegler provided an update on the community movie night.

3. 2016 Meeting Schedule

Silander made the motion, seconded by Armstrong to adopt the 2016 meeting schedule as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Mansfield Ad hoc Committee on Rental Housing

Hart provided information on the recently created ad hoc Committee on rental housing. The Committee will consist of members from both the Town Council and the Planning and Zoning

Commission. Hart and Painter discussed enforcement activity and process related to the regulation of the number of unrelated persons living in a household(s). Committee members discussed challenges with absentee landlords and poorly managed rental properties. Kirk and Gilbert discussed the University's plans for new on-campus student housing.

5. Membership Update/MOA Update

Hart provided an update on the review of membership and Committee scope. It may be recommended for MCCP to become a sub-committee of Town-Gown.

6. Other Business

Sargent inquired about how information will be shared with students about the possible tuition increases. Kirk provided a response.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maria E. Capriola, Assistant Town Manager
Town of Mansfield